

NEC BRIEFING**2 July 1958****LEBANON**

- I. After seven weeks situation remains unresolved. However, a number of additional elements have been added:**

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- II. Lebanese govt leaders have become extremely sceptical of Hammarskjold.**

A. Chamoun completely distrusts Hammarskjold, saying that he was either "the most conceited man in the world or the most deceitful."

B. UN observers consider Lebanese Government lax in producing evidence of UAR intervention.

III. Cairo continues pressure against any forceful UN action in Lebanon.

IV. Dissension among rebels appears to be hastening desires on part of some of their leaders for compromise.

A. Jumblatt is said to be disgruntled with Saib Salam in Beirut and Rashid Karami in Tripoli because of their failure to join offensive against Beirut.

1. Jumblatt began his own offensive on 30 June; at first *but he was to* ~~re-~~ *rough shelling & fighting in his area southeast of Beirut* ~~pulsed, he regained on 2 July apparent effort to link up~~ *no shelling on* ~~with rebels in Muslim quarter of Beirut.~~

2. *the has been stopped again* ~~Followers of one Shia Muslim leader are disturbed by Syrian~~ aid to Sunni Muslims.

C. There have been some rebel defections to govt.

D. Shihab has bribed some tribal leaders into arrangement whereby tribesmen will be "inducted" into army.

E. "Moderate" opposition leaders Yafi and Uwayni have stated that opposition is not united and that morale in the Basta area of Beirut is low.

1. They propose negotiated settlement with Chamoun on who next president will be. However, these leaders do not command armed groups and do not speak for the extremists.

F. Solution - either military or political, therefore, still seems some distance away.

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